

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) objected to claim 521 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75; (2) provisionally rejected claims 1, 284, 285, 469, 485, and 521-535 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 284, 285, 469, 485, 286-290, and 470-478 of copending Application Serial No. 10/552,790; (3) provisionally rejected claims 1, 284, 285, 485, and 521-526 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 807-809, and 828-831 of copending Application Serial No. 10/553,566; (4) rejected claims 1, 284, 285, 469, 521, 528, 530, and 532 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Application No. 2003/0188868, inventors Simpson et al.; and (5) rejected claims 284, 285, 469, 485, 521, and 524-533 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Application No. 2006/0137877, inventors Watson et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the attached amendments and the remarks that follow.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 284, 285, 469, 485, and 521-535 are pending and not withdrawn.

Claims 1, 284, 469, 485, 523, and 524 are currently amended.

Claims 521, 522, and 535 are hereby canceled.

Claims 50, 95, 142, 191, 286-290, 298-307, 309-313, 315-316, 322, 330, 338, 390-391, 393, 394, 400, 408, 416, 468, 470-481, 484, 495, 498, 500-501, and 511 were previously withdrawn.

Claims 2-49, 51-94, 96-141, 143-190, 192-283, 291-297, 308, 314, 317-321, 323-329, 331-337, 339-389, 392, 395-399, 401-407, 409-415, 417-467, 482-483, 486-494, 496-497, 499, 502-510, and 512-520 were previously canceled.

II. Objection to Claim 521

The Examiner objects to claim 521 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 285. Claim 521 is hereby canceled. Claim 524 currently amended to depend from claim 285, rather than now-canceled claim 521.

III. Claims Provisionally Rejected Over Application '790

Because a Notice of Abandonment has issued in Application '790, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the provisional double patenting rejection of claims 1, 284, 285, 469, 485, and 522-535 in the present application as to Application '790.

IV. Claims Provisionally Rejected Over Application '566

Because claims 1, 807-809, and 828-831 of Application '566 have not yet been allowed, Applicant prefers to defer a decision regarding filing of a terminal disclaimer in either the present application or Application '566 until such time that the claims of either application are allowed.

V. Claims Anticipated by Simpson

The Examiner finds claims 1, 284, 285, 469, 528, 530, and 532 are anticipated by Simpson. Claims 1, 284, and 469 are independent claims. The remaining rejected claims depend from one of these claims. Claim 284 is currently amended to recite the substance of now-canceled claim 522. Claim 1 is similarly amended. Claim 469 is currently amended to recite the substance of now-canceled claim 535. Simpson does not disclose a sensor coupled to the support member 305 for sensing an internal diameter of tubular member 315, as required by claims 1 and 285. Moreover, Simpson does not disclose sensing the internal diameter of tubular member 315, as required by claim 469. Therefore, Simpson does not anticipate claims 1, 284, and 469 or their dependent claims 285, 528, 530, and 532.

VI. Claims Anticipated by Watson

The Examiner finds claims 284, 285, 469, 485, and 524-533 are anticipated by Watson. Claims 284, 469, and 485 are independent claims. The remaining rejected claims depend from one of these claims. Claim 485 is currently amended to recite a means for sensing an internal diameter of the tubular member. Like Simpson, Watson does not disclose a means, including a sensor, for sensing an internal diameter of a tubular member, as required by claims 284 and 485, or sensing an internal diameter of a tubular member, as required by claim 469. Therefore, Watson does not anticipate claims 284, 469, and 485 or their dependent claims 285 and 524-533.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicant believes all matters in the Office Action dated December 16, 2008 have been addressed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections, and allowance of the pending claims. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Conley Rose, P.C.'s Deposit Account Number 03-2769 (2725-26006).

Respectfully submitted,

/David A. Rose/
David A. Rose
Reg. No. 26,223
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
P. O. Box 3267
Houston, Texas 77253-3267
(713) 238-8000 (Tel.)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT